Disparity in licensing standards of drugs

504. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether disparity in licensing standards of drugs among State causes proliferation of irrational drugs (fixed dose combination drugs) in the market;

(b) whether Government propose to form a Drug Regulatory Authority to speed up licencing and regulate clinical trials, etc; and

(c) whether Government propose to amend the Drugs & Cosmetics Act to establish the proposed drug regulatory authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Disparity amongst States with respect to infrastructure and Licensing procedures has been noticed. There Have been cases of grant of licenses for fixed dose Combinations (irrational drugs) by the State Drugs Controllers without due permission from CDSCO, Directorate General of Health Services and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

Harmful effects of mobile phone radiation

†505. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the waves generated by the cellular towers and mobile phones pose any threat to human life;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether Government have made it mandatory to warn against such health related threat;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps Government are taking to reduce the impact of radiation so that there is no adverse impact on human health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) There has been

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

concern in the public regarding health hazards due to radiations from mobile phones base station, TV Towers etc. Based on the Public Interest Litigation filed at Mumbai, the Mumbai High Court has asked the Government of India to examine this issue. As a follow up, a Committee was constituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which opined that overall there is not enough evidence to show direct health hazards of radio frequency exposure from electromagnetic waves emitted by cellular mobile towers and the mobile phones. The Committee recommended that a precautionary approach needs to be adopted till further research data is available. It was also suggested that it would not be amiss to adopt the International Council for Non-ionizing, Radiation protection guidelines for limiting electronic magnetic force exposures. Further, in order to develop the expertise in this area, the Ministry of Telecommunication set up a multi-disciplinary Committee to examine the issue of adopting international guidelines for electromagnetic radiation emitting from mobile phone towers. Ministry of Telecommunication has prepared draft guidelines to provide the limits to human exposures to electromagnetic field.

Psychiatric treatment facilities

† 506. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that psychiatric disease has become a tragedy in absence of proper health facilities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that inspite of all the efforts there is a huge shortage of psychiatric medical centres;

(c) if not, the details thereof; State-wise;

(d) whether Government would consider upon to make the facility and treatment available in the above medical centres of the country in conforming with the norms of World Health Organisation;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (f) Efforts of the Government are to diagnose the mentally ill patients and treat them through general health care system, which is the internationally accepted practice. Such Facilities are available at districts/

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